**CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended): A product for determining empathy, comprising:

  (a)   means for presenting a plurality of questions to a first participant and wherein ~~a~~ said first participant is ~~permitted~~ required to provide a first set of answers to at least some of the plurality of questions and wherein said first set of answers represent said first participant's views and wherein ~~the~~ said first participant is also ~~permitted~~ required to provide a second set of answers to said at least some of the plurality of questions attempting to anticipate how a second participant will answer each of said at least some of the plurality of questions;

  (b)   means for presenting said plurality of questions to ~~and wherein the~~ said second participant and wherein said second participant is ~~permitted~~ required to provide a third set of answers to said at least some of the plurality of questions and wherein said third set of answers represent said second participant's views and wherein ~~the~~ said

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second participant is also ~~permitted~~ required to

provide a fourth set of answers to said at least

some of the plurality of questions attempting to

anticipate how ~~the~~ said first participant will

answer each question;

(c)  means for recording said first set of answers,

said second set of answers, said third set of

answers, and said fourth set of answers;

(d)  means for mathematically comparing at least two

answers either from said first set of answers to

said fourth set of answers or from said second set

of answers to said third set of answers sufficient

to produce a numerical result that is

representative of an average difference in the

absolute value between said at least two answers,

and wherein said average difference includes an

empathy index for said topic; and

(e)  means for providing said empathy index to said

first participant and to said second participant.

2. (currently amended): The product of claim 1 ~~including means for comparing at least two of the sets of answers to establish a level of empathy appertaining to said first participant and said second participant~~ wherein said at

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least two answers appertain to a common topic and wherein said empathy index is for said common topic.


3. (currently amended): A system for determining empathy, comprising:

(a) a database including an operating software wherein said operating software is adapted to ~~generate~~ present a plurality of questions and wherein a first participant is ~~permitted~~ required to provide a first set of answers to at least some of the plurality of questions indicating the first participant's views and wherein said database includes means for storing said first set of answers on a computer-readable media and wherein ~~the~~ said first participant is also ~~permitted~~ required to provide a second set of answers to at least some of the plurality of questions attempting to anticipate how a second participant will answer each question and wherein said database includes means for storing said second set of answers on said computer-readable media and wherein said operating software is adapted to present said plurality of questions to said second participant and wherein ~~the~~ said second participant is ~~permitted~~ required to provide a third

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set of answers to at least some of the plurality of
questions indicating the second participant's views <u>and</u>
<u>wherein said database includes means for storing said</u>
<u>third set of answers on said computer-readable media</u>
and wherein ~~the~~ <u>said</u> second participant is also
~~permitted~~ <u>required</u> to provide a fourth set of answers
to at least some of the plurality of questions
attempting to anticipate how the first participant will
answer each question <u>and wherein said database includes</u>
<u>means for storing said fourth set of answers on said</u>
<u>computer-readable media;</u>

(b) ~~means for said first participant to access said~~
~~operating software sufficient to answer said~~
~~questions;~~

~~(c) means for said second participant to access said~~
~~operating software sufficient to answer said~~
~~questions; and~~

~~(d)~~ means for comparing at least two of the sets of
answers to establish <u>a difference between an absolute</u>
<u>value that is assigned to each answer for each question</u>
<u>and wherein said means for comparing is configured to</u>
<u>average said absolute value for a plurality of</u>

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questions, and wherein said absolute value for a plurality of questions includes an ~~of~~ empathy index, said empathy index providing an indication of either how well said first participant understands an aspect of said second participant appertaining to at least one topic covered by said questions or how well said second participant understands an aspect of said first participant appertaining to said at least one topic covered by said questions; and ~~first participant and said second participant~~

(c) providing said empathy index to said first participant and to said second participant.

4. (currently amended): The system of claim 3 wherein the first set of answers is compared with the fourth set of answers to generate ~~an~~ said empathy index ~~that~~ and wherein said empathy index is indicative of how well said ~~the~~ second participant ~~has for the~~ understands said first participant.

5. (currently amended): The system of claim 4 wherein each question includes a range of answers and a numeric value that is assigned to any selection that is made within the

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range of answers, and wherein ~~an~~ said absolute value of the difference between the selection provided to each question in the first set of answers and the fourth set of answers is calculated and is used to generate ~~an~~ said empathy index for that question, and wherein a low absolute value is indicative of a high level of ~~empathy~~ understanding that ~~the~~ said second participant has for the views of said first participant.

6. (currently amended): The system of claim 3 wherein the second set of answers is compared with the third set of answers to generate ~~an~~ said empathy index ~~that~~ and wherein said empathy index is indicative of how well said ~~the~~ first participant ~~has for the~~ understands said second participant.

7. (currently amended): The system of claim 6 wherein each question includes a range of answers and a numeric value that is assigned to any selection that is made within the range of answers, and wherein ~~an~~ said absolute value of the difference between the selection provided to each question in the second set of answers and the third set of answers is calculated and is used to generate ~~an~~ said empathy index for that question, and wherein a low absolute value is

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indicative of a high level of ~~empathy~~ understanding that ~~the~~ said first participant has for the views of said second participant.

8. (currently amended): The system of claim 3 wherein the first set of answers is compared with the fourth set of answers to generate ~~an~~ said empathy index ~~that~~ and wherein said empathy index is indicative of how well said ~~the~~ second participant ~~has for the~~ understands said first participant and wherein each question includes a range of answers and a unique numeric value that is assigned to any selection that is made within the range of answers, and wherein ~~an~~ said absolute value of the difference between the numeric value of each selection provided to each question in the first set of answers and the fourth set of answers is calculated and is used to generate ~~an~~ said empathy index for that question, and wherein a low absolute value is indicative of a high level of ~~empathy~~ understanding that ~~the~~ said second participant has for the views of said first participant and wherein the second set of answers is compared with the third set of answers to generate a first additional empathy index ~~that~~ and wherein said first additional empathy index is indicative of how well said ~~the~~ first participant ~~has for~~

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~~the~~ understands said second participant and wherein each

question includes a range of answers and a numeric value

that is assigned to any selection that is made within the

range of answers, and wherein ~~an~~ said absolute value of the

difference between the selection provided to each question

in the second set of answers and the third set of answers is

calculated and is used to generate a second additional

empathy index for that question, and wherein a low absolute

value is indicative of a high level of ~~empathy~~ understanding

that ~~the~~ said first participant has for the views of said

second participant and wherein ~~the~~ said first additional

empathy index and ~~the~~ said second additional empathy index

~~is~~ are made available to ~~the~~ said first and said second

participants as an output of the system.


9. (currently amended): The system of claim 8 including an

average of the first additional empathy indices for a

grouping of certain of the plurality of questions as a first

additional output and including an average of the second

additional empathy indices for a grouping of certain of the

plurality of questions as a second additional output.

10. (currently amended): The system of claim 8 including an overall average of all of the first additional empathy indices and including an overall average of all of the second additional empathy indices.

11. (original): The system of claim 3 wherein said operating software is disposed in a server, said server being accessible by an area network.

12. (original): The system of claim 11 wherein the area network includes an Internet.

13. (original): The system of claim 3 wherein said operating software is adapted to detect a potential condition and to provide a warning to either of the participants subsequent to the detection of said potential condition.

14. (original): The system of claim 13 wherein the warning includes an urging for either of the participant to seek professional help regarding a particular answer that was provided by at least one of the participants.

15. (currently amended): The system of claim 3 wherein said operating ~~system~~ software is adapted to be disposed in a personal computer.



16. (canceled)



17. (currently amended): The system of claim 3 wherein access to said software in said data base is provided to said participants subsequent to the payment of a fee.



18. (original): The system of claim 17 wherein said access is provided for a limited period of time.



19. (original): The system of claim 3 wherein said answers are adapted to be changed by said first participant until said first participant elects to finalize their answers and wherein said answers are adapted to be changed by said second participant until said second participant elects to finalize their answers.

20. (currently amended): The system of claim 19 wherein said ~~output~~ empathy index is made available to said first participant and to said second participant for a predetermined period of time subsequent to said first participant and said second participant having both finalized their answers.


21. (currently amended): The system of claim 10 wherein said overall average of all of the first additional empathy indices and said overall average of all of the second additional empathy indices are added and divided by two so as to provide a partnership empathy index; said partnership empathy index being provided to said first participant and to said second participant.


22. (currently amended): The system of claim ~~2~~ 3 wherein a third party includes means for referring a customer of theirs to subscribe to said system.

23. (original): The system of claim 22 including means for tracking said third party and wherein subsequent to said customer making a payment to use said system, said third party shall receive a portion of said payment for providing said referral.


24. (canceled)


25. (canceled)


26. (canceled)


27. (canceled)


28. (canceled)


29. (canceled)

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)